

September 26, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45
State Certification of USF funds in rural areas

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is submitted pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.314(a), which requires annual state certification of use of federal universal service funds as a prerequisite for continued receipt of funding by rural carriers. As the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, we govern local services and rates in Alaska and are the appropriate authority to issue certification under Section 54.314(a).

We declare that to the best of our knowledge and belief, all federal high cost support received in 2002 by economically regulated rural eligible telecommunications carriers in Alaska (see attached list) will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

We do not economically regulate Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (for all exchanges except Barrow), Circle Telephone, Cordova Telephone and Ketchikan Public Utilities. Our certification does not cover these non-regulated entities and each is responsible for self-certifying its compliance with 47 C.F.R. 54.314(b).

We have pending a number of local carrier revenue requirement and cost of service study proceedings. Additional studies are scheduled for filing in subsequent years. Our certification herein does not preclude us from reviewing in further detail how any carrier has employed its federal universal service funds and ordering that use of funds comply with directives or policies we may set. Our certification is based on best data available as of September 26, 2001. Our decision herein does not bind us in future or

pending cases and we reserve the right to conclude, given better data or a more detailed review, that a company should employ its universal service funding differently than it does today or in the future.

Sincerely,
REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

/S/
Commissioner G. Nanette Thompson
Chair

Rural Eligible Telecommunications Carriers in Alaska:

ACS of Alaska, Inc.
ACS of Fairbanks, Inc.
ACS of the Northland, Inc.
Alaska Telephone Company.
Arctic Slope Telephone Assoc. Coop. Inc.¹
Bettles Telephone, Inc.
Bristol Bay Telephone Coop. Inc.
Bush-Tell, Inc.
Copper Valley Telephone Coop., Inc.
GCI Communications Corp.
Interior Telephone Co.
Matanuska Telephone Assoc., Inc.
Mukluk Telephone Co.
North Country Telephone, Inc.
Nushagak Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
OTZ Telephone Coop., Inc.
Summit Telephone Co.
United Utilities, Inc.
United-KUC, Inc.
Yukon Telephone Co.

¹ The Regulatory Commission of Alaska only economically regulates ASTAC for its Barrow exchange. ASTAC, as a non-regulated carrier for the majority of its operations, has separately filed a letter with the FCC indicating its intent to use federal high cost funds only for their intended purposes.